GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1124
ANSWERED ON:29.04.2016
Adverse Effect of Plastic
Choudhary Col. (Retd) Sona Ram

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken note of adverse effect of plastic on health of the people and made any study in this regard;

(b) if so, the details and the outcome thereof;

(c) whether the Government intends to impose a ban on use of plastic for packaging of food products and other material; and

(d) if so, the details and implementation status thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK)
(a) & (b): The Government has taken note of the adverse effect of plastic on health of the people and thus the Ministry of Environment and Forests framed the Plastic Waste (Management and Handling) Rules in 2011and 2016; that bans the usage of plastic bags with thickness less than 40 microns and instructs the manufacturers to conform to the BIS norms. The Plastic Waste Management Rules, aim to:
I. Increase minimum thickness of plastic carry bags from 40 to 50 microns and stipulate minimum thickness of 50 micron for plastic sheets also to facilitate collection and recycle of plastic waste,

II. Expand the jurisdiction of applicability from the municipal area to rural areas, because plastic has reached rural areas also;

III. To bring in the responsibilities of producers and generators, both in plastic waste management system and to introduce collect back system of plastic waste by the producers/brand owners, as per extended producers responsibility;

IV. To introduce collection of plastic waste management fee through pre-registration of the producers, importers of plastic carry bags/multilayered packaging and vendors selling the same for establishing the waste management system;

V. To promote use of plastic waste for road construction as per Indian Road Congress guidelines or energy recovery, or waste to oil etc. for gainful utilization of waste and also address the waste disposal issue; to entrust more responsibility on waste generators, namely payment of user charge as prescribed by local authority, collection and handing over of waste by the institutional generator, event organizers.

The expected outcome from the new rules include-

i. Increase in the thickness of carry bags and plastic sheets.

ii. Collect back system

iii. Phasing out of manufacture and use of non- recyclable multilayered plastic

iv. Responsibility of waste generator- All institutional generators of plastic waste, shall segregate and store the waste generated by them in accordance with the Solid Waste Management Rules, and handover segregated wastes to authorized waste processing or disposal facilities or deposition centers, either on its own or through the authorized waste collection agency

v. Responsibility of local bodies and Gram Panchayat- The local bodies shall be responsible for setting up, operationalization and co-ordination of the waste management system and for performing associated functions.

vi. Pre- registration fee- The shopkeepers and street vendors willing to provide plastic carry bags for dispensing any commodity shall register with local body. The concerned local body may prescribe higher plastic waste management fee, depending upon the production, or sale capacity.

vii. Reuse of plastic waste

viii. Land for waste management facility- The responsibility to provide land for establishing waste management facility has been made to the Ministry of Environment & Forests with business allocation of land allotment in the State Government. This would eliminate the issue of getting land for the waste management facility.

(c) & (d): Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has comprehensively reviewed the Plastic Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2011 and notified Plastic Waste Management Rule, 2016 on 18th March, 2016 to improve the implementation of these rules. As per these rules, carry bags made of recycled plastic or products made of recycled plastic shall not be used for storing, carrying, dispensing or packaging ready to eat or drink food stuff and sachets using plastic material shall not be used for storing, packing or selling gutkha, tobacco and pan masala.